



Solway Community School

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11th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to a new school year. Already the summer holidays seem like a distant memory and we are already back into the swing of lessons and school life.

School priorities are as always, the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. This year we will be in particular concentrating on raising our expectations of the students' learning behaviours. Attitudes for learning are clearly explained in their planners and on the walls of every classroom, and we will be working on making sure students can recognise and demonstrate excellent learning and behaviour around school and in every lesson. We are expecting students to take responsibility for their own learning, and in the process discover how satisfying effective learning can be!

We have reaffirmed our shared values as a school and reminded students of our goals – not only to produce good exam results, but also to learn how to grow into well rounded, good humoured, confident young people who can take their place in society. I am delighted to report that all of last year's Year 11 have gone on to further or higher education, or into apprenticeships and training, which is excellent news.

As part of our school priorities this year we have re-launched our homework policy. You will notice that students are being given an increasingly substantial amount of homework regularly; assignments will be written into student planners, and posted on Facebook, and I would urge you to support your children with this. Homework is an important part of their education, and extends and reinforces what goes on in the classroom. To further support this, we will be running a homework club every night after school from 3:00 – 4:00, where staff and access to computers and the library will be available to help students complete work. A separate opportunity for Year 11 will be coordinated by Mrs Woodman – more details to follow shortly.

The second priority area for us this term is attendance. Excellent attendance is crucial for your child to do as well as they can in school. National targets are 95%, but we are aiming for higher than that. We understand that some bouts of illness are unavoidable, but not every illness needs to keep your child from school. If they are not contagious, consider if you would take a day off work – and if you wouldn't, please send them in. In addition, holidays in term time are not permitted unless in exceptional circumstances at the Headteacher's discretion; and any appointments should be arranged outside the school day. Any absence for medical appointments will require proof to be brought into school (copy of an appointment card, or letter from a doctor for example). Please support us in our

aim to keep attendance above 95%.

Finally, a reminder that Prizegiving this year is earlier than in previous years, on Wednesday 27th September. We look forward to welcoming as many parents as possible into school to celebrate your children's success.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you have any queries or concerns – call into the office to arrange an appointment, or just pop in, and if I possibly can I'll meet you there and then.

With best wishes for another successful year,

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Headteacher

